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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In the Application of:

LAFFEND ET AL.

CASE NO.: CR-9715-B

APPLICATION NO.: 08/849,404

GROUP ART UNIT: 1653

FILED: 22 MAY 1997

EXAMINER: BUGIASKY,

FOR: BIOCONVERSION OF A FERMENTABLE
CARBON SOURCE TO 1,3-PROPANEDIOL
BY A SINGLE MICROORGANISM

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REPLY

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

This document is filed in response to the Non-Final Office Action, Paper 22, dated 23 November 1999. This Reply is accompanied by a petition for an extension of time in which to answer and the appropriate fee authorization. Please enter the following amendments and comments.

In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 2, 6, 31, and 34.

REMARKS

Claims 2, 6, and 20-31, and 34 are pending in the case. Claims 20-30 are allowed. Claims 2, 6, 31, and 34 stand rejected.

Allowance of Claims 20-30 as Amended:

Applicants wish to have Claims 20-30 pass to grant. A divisional case is being filed 22 May 2000 to continue prosecution on the remaining subject matter of Claims 2, 6, 31, and 34.

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PAPER IS BEING DEPOSITED WITH THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE WITH SUFFICIENT POSTAGE AS FIRST CLASS MAIL IN AN ENVELOPE ADDRESSED TO: ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS, WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231 ON May 22, 2000.

Mary Beth Pitcher

MARY BETH PITCHER
NAME OF PERSON SIGNING THIS CERTIFICATE

In view of the foregoing, a Notice of Allowance for Claims 20-30 of the above-referenced application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



LINDA AXAMETHY FLOOD
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Dated: 22 MAY 2000